

REGULAR MEETING-MARCH 24, 2003-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

The regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council was called to order by Mayor Elizabeth Paterson at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Haddad, Hawkins, Holinko, Paterson, Rosen, Schaefer, Martin
Absent: Bellm, Thorkelson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Martin seconded to approve the minutes of March 10, 2003 as presented.

So passed. Mayor Paterson abstained. So noted that Mr. Bellm and Mr. Thorkelson were ill.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Proposed Amendments to Building Construction Ordinance

No comments from the public, hearing closed at 7:34 p.m.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mr. Christopher Paulhus, 720 Middle Turnpike, regrets that the Council voted on the Resolution against war in Iraq. However he urged the Council to adopt a new resolution in support of our troops who are now serving in Iraq.

V. OLD BUSINESS

2. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for Year Ending June 30, 2002

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Martin seconded to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for year ending June 30, 2002.

Motion so passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to add Dec. 31, 2002 Financial Report to the agenda.

So passed unanimously.

2a. December 31, 2002 Financial Report

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Martin seconded to accept the December 31, 2002 Financial Report as presented by the Director of Finance.

So passed unanimously.

3. Proposed Amendments to Building Construction Ordinance-Chapter 107, Mansfield Code of Ordinances

Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Holinko seconded to adopt the amendments to the Building construction Ordinance-Chapter 107 of the Mansfield Code of Ordinances as proposed by staff in its draft dated March 10,2003, and which amendments will become effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation in the Town of Mansfield.

So passed unanimously.

4. Mansfield Public Library Advisory Board Statement Concerning the Importance of Constitutional Privacy Protections

Mr. Martin moved that the Library Board members contact their federal legislators as citizens concerning the importance of maintaining certain constitutional privacy protections with respect to public libraries.

Mr. Schaefer called the question. Seconded by Mr. Rosen.
So passed unanimously.

Roll call vote on motion:

In favor: Hawkins, Martin

Against: Haddad, Holinko, Paterson, Rosen, Schaefer

Motion failed.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to authorize the Mansfield Public Library Advisory Board to submit to Mansfield's federal legislators the board's statement concerning the importance of maintaining certain Constitutional privacy protections with respect to public libraries.

Motion so passed. Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Holinko and Mr. Martin voted against motion.

5. University Spring Weekend

No comments

VI. NEW BUSINESS

6. Town of Mansfield Proposed Fiscal Year 2003/04 Budget

The Town Manager presented the Town Council with the budget for fiscal year 2003/04 for their review and consideration. He highlighted his budget message, which would require a tax rate increase on all taxable property in Mansfield of 14.1. This budget reflects the Governor's proposed budget and the revenues that the Town will be receiving from major state grants. Revenues have decreased by nearly five percent. The Council will be meeting with the Town Manager and the Director of

Finance at future budget meetings to prepare a final budget to present at the Annual Town Budget meeting on May 13, 2003.

7. Agreement Among Chief Elected Officials for the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Area

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to authorize the Mayor, effective March 24, 2003 to execute the proposed "Agreement among Chief Elected Officials for the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Area"

So passed unanimously.

8. Underage Drinking on Private Property

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Rosen seconded to refer this issue of underage drinking on Private Property to the staff and to the Substance abuse committee.

So passed unanimously.

9. Minority Party Representative on Regional Boards

Mr. Martin read a letter addressed to Carol Pellegrine regarding the vacancy on Region 19 Board of Education from the Deputy Director of the Connecticut Republicans.

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to refer this letter to the Town Attorney and placing this issue on the next agenda.

So passed unanimously

10. Community Center Walking Tract

The Town Manager was pleased to announce a donation toward the walking tract in the Community Center of \$250,000.00. This is at present an anonymous donation until the Center is dedicated.

10a. By consensus item 10a Resolution regarding an award to the Mansfield Public Library.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Rosen seconded to adopt the following resolution:

The Mansfield Public Library having been awarded the Excellence in Public Library Architecture Award 2003, for libraries under 18,000-sq. ft., The Town of Mansfield congratulates and thanks the Library, its Board, and its Librarian, Louise Bailey.

So passed unanimously.

VII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

No comments

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

No comments

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No comments

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Martin reported that he had attended his first Correctional Facility Meeting and was very impressed with the members of the committee.

XI. TOWN MANAGER

The Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager spoke to the Town of Windham Charter Revision Commission.

There has been an election by the Local 760 CSEA, SEIU, AFL-CIO in the Town Hall and the members have voted to retain the Union.

The Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager attended a meeting with the Governor on homeland security.

The Town has closed on the Vernon property.

The Community Center Building committee met last week and the Town Manger shared with them the gift of the Track for the new Center. The building project is close to its schedule of completion.

A company has been hired to develop a Municipal Development Plan for the Downtown Partnership.

WINCOG considered the ISTEAs grants and has given priority to a project in the Town of Coventry.

There is an at-risk program in place in town.

The Town Manager handed out a press release regarding the 2003 Town Road Sweeping program.

There is a Special Meeting on March 29 to visit capital projects in town.

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Assessment from the Town Manager and staff regarding bottle recycling bill.

XIII. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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- 11. Transportation Advisory Committee re: Fare-Free Bus Program Funding
- 12. C. Hirsch re: "The Rock" on South Eagleville Road
- 13. Department of Public Works Press Release re: Plains Road Closure
- 14. Connecticut State Library re: Mansfield Public Library Recipient of Excellence in Public Library Architecture Award for 2003
- 15. Willimantic River Alliance re: Nomination of Willimantic River Greenway
- 16. R. Miller re: Four Corners Area Drinking Water Will Monitoring Update

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:55 p.m. Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to adjourn the meeting.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk